

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

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LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A dust cover for a steering shaft attached to an vehicle body in such a way as to be in contact with the steering shaft to provide protection against dust and muddy water, comprising:

a cylindrical contact member that is to be in sliding contact with said steering shaft while said steering shaft is rotating; and

a cylindrical reinforcement member for reinforcing said cylindrical contact member provided radially outside the cylindrical contact member,

wherein a low friction material is attached, by coating or baking, to such a portion of said cylindrical contact member that is in contact with said steering

shaft, or said cylindrical contact member itself is made of a low friction member.

2. (Original) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 1, wherein said low friction material is one of a fluorine series resin, molybdenum, graphite and Teflon.

3. (Previously Presented) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 1, wherein said dust cover is provided with a sealing lip portion that is in contact with said steering shaft to provide sealing function.

4. (Previously Presented) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 1, wherein a bellows portion having elasticity is provided between said cylindrical reinforcement member and a portion attached to the vehicle body.

5. (Original) A dust cover for a steering shaft attached to a vehicle body in such a way as to be in contact with the steering shaft to provide protection against dust and muddy water, comprising:

a cylindrical contact member that is to be in sliding contact with said steering shaft while said steering shaft is rotating,

wherein a low friction material is attached, by coating or baking, to such a portion of said cylindrical contact member that is in contact with said steering shaft, or said cylindrical contact member itself is made of a low friction member.

6. (Original) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 5, wherein said low friction material is one of a fluorine series resin, molybdenum, graphite and Teflon.

7. (Previously Presented) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 5, wherein said dust cover is provided with a sealing lip portion that is in contact with said steering shaft to provide sealing function.

8. (Previously Presented) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 5, wherein a bellows portion having elasticity is provided between said

cylindrical contact member and a portion attached to the vehicle body.

9. (Original) A dust cover for a steering shaft attached to an vehicle body in such a way as to be in contact with the steering shaft to provide protection against dust and muddy water, comprising:

a cylindrical metal member that is to be in sliding contact with said steering shaft while said steering shaft is rotating,

wherein a low friction material is attached, by coating or baking, to such a portion of said cylindrical metal member that is in contact with said steering shaft.

10. (Original) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 9, wherein said low friction material is one of a fluorine series resin, molybdenum, graphite and Teflon.

11. (Previously Presented) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 9, wherein said dust cover is provided with a sealing lip portion that is in contact with said steering shaft to provide sealing function.

12. (Previously Presented) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 9, wherein a bellows portion having elasticity is provided between said cylindrical metal member and a portion attached to the vehicle body.

13. (Original) A dust cover for a steering shaft attached to an vehicle body in such a way as to be in contact with the steering shaft to provide protection against dust and muddy water, comprising:

a cover side cylindrical contact member attached to said dust cover;

a cylindrical reinforcement member for reinforcing said cover side cylindrical contact member provided radially outside the cover side cylindrical contact member;

a shaft side cylindrical contact member attached to said steering shaft that is to be in sliding contact with said cover side cylindrical contact member.

14. (Original) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 13, wherein a low friction material is attached, by coating or baking, to at least one of such

portions of said cylindrical contact members at which they are in contact, or at least one of said cylindrical contact members themselves is made of a low friction material.

15. (Original) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 14, wherein said low friction material is one of a fluorine series resin, molybdenum, graphite and Teflon.

16. (Previously Presented) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 13, wherein said dust cover is provided with a sealing lip portion that is in contact with said steering shaft to provide sealing function.

17. (Previously Presented) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 13, wherein a bellows portion having elasticity is provided between said cylindrical reinforcement member and a portion attached to the vehicle body.

18. (Previously Presented) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 2, wherein said dust

cover is provided with a sealing lip portion that is in contact with said steering shaft to provide sealing function.

19. (Previously Presented) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 2, wherein a bellows portion having elasticity is provided between said cylindrical reinforcement member and a portion attached to the vehicle body.

20. (Previously Presented) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 6, wherein said dust cover is provided with a sealing lip portion that is in contact with said steering shaft to provide sealing function.

21. (Previously Presented) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 6, wherein a bellows portion having elasticity is provided between said cylindrical contact member and a portion attached to the vehicle body.

22. (Previously Presented) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 10, wherein said dust cover is provided with a sealing lip portion that is in contact with said steering shaft to provide sealing function.

23. (Previously Presented) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 10, wherein a bellows portion having elasticity is provided between said cylindrical metal member and a portion attached to the vehicle body.

24. (Previously Presented) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 14, wherein said dust cover is provided with a sealing lip portion that is in contact with said steering shaft to provide sealing function.

25. (Previously Presented) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 14, wherein a bellows portion having elasticity is provided between said cylindrical reinforcement member and a portion attached to the vehicle body.

26. (New) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 5, wherein a number of grooves extending in the axial direction are formed on the inner circumference of the cylindrical contact member.

27. (New) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 7, wherein

a plurality of bellows portions having elasticity is provided between said cylindrical contact member and a portion attached to the vehicle body; and

said bellows portions and said lip portion are formed integrally.

28. (New) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 7, wherein

a plurality of bellows portions having elasticity is provided between said cylindrical contact member and a portion attached to the vehicle body; and

said cylindrical contact member and said bellows portions are formed integrally.

29. (New) A dust cover for a steering shaft attached to a vehicle body in such a way as to be in

contact with the steering shaft to provide protection against dust and muddy water, comprising:

a contact cylinder having a low friction inner circumference that is to be in sliding contact with said steering shaft while said steering shaft is rotating; and

a plurality of bellows portions having elasticity provided between said contact cylinder and a portion attached to the vehicle body.

30. (New) A dust cover for a steering shaft according to claim 29, wherein said contact cylinder comprises a cylindrical portion integral with said bellows portions and a sliding bushing formed on the inner side of the cylindrical portion.